IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and listings.

1. (currently amended): An image processing method for processing an input job in parallel by a plurality of color image output apparatus, each having a device profile that includes multiple types of color processing conditions, said method comprising:

a developing step of developing input image data into bit map image data,

wherein said developing step includes first and second modes,

wherein, in the first mode, the input image data is developed a number of times equal to the number of color image output apparatus, using a set of type(s) of color processing condition(s) from a device profile, including one or more type(s) as to which the color image output apparatus differ from each other, wherein each time the set of color processing condition(s) used corresponds ~~corresponding~~ to a respective ~~each of the plurality of~~ color image output apparatus and the result obtained is output to that color image output apparatus, and

wherein, in the second mode, the input image data is developed once, using an optional set of type(s) of color processing condition(s) from a device profile, including one or more type(s) as to which the color image output apparatus differ from each other, wherein the set of color processing condition(s) used corresponds to a combination of the plurality of color image output apparatus and ~~a~~ the result obtained ~~in said developing step~~ is output to the plurality of color image output apparatus.

2.-3. (cancelled)

4. (currently amended): An image processing method according to claim [[3]]1, wherein the optional set of color processing condition(s) is the average ~~values~~ of the sets of color processing conditions corresponding to the plurality of color image output apparatus, respectively.

5. (withdrawn-amended): An image processing method according to claim [[3]]1, further comprising a distributing process of distributing the input job to the plurality of color image output apparatus, wherein the optional color processing condition is determined by performing a weighing process of the color processing condition corresponding to each of the color image output apparatus in accordance with a distribution condition of said distributing process.

6. (currently amended): An image processing apparatus for processing an input job in parallel by a plurality of color image output apparatus, each having a device profile that includes multiple types of color processing conditions, said method comprising:

means for developing input image data into bit map image data; and

selecting means for selecting either a first mode or a second mode in said means for developing,

wherein, in the first mode, the input image data is developed a number of times equal to the number of color image output apparatus, ~~by~~ using a set of type(s) of color processing condition(s) from a device profile, including one or more

type(s) as to which the color image output apparatus differ from each other, wherein each time the set of color processing condition(s) used corresponds ~~corresponding~~ to a respective ~~each of the plurality of~~ color image output apparatus and the result obtained is output to that color image output apparatus, and

wherein, in the second mode, the input image data is developed by once, using an optional set of type(s) of color processing condition(s) from a device profile, including one or more type(s) as to which the color image output apparatus differ from each other, wherein the set of color processing condition(s) used corresponds to a combination of the plurality of color image output apparatus[[,]] and ~~in both modes a~~ the result obtained ~~by said means for developing~~ is output to the plurality of color image output apparatus.

7. (currently amended): A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for realizing an image processing method for processing an input job in parallel by a plurality of color image output apparatus, each having a device profile that includes multiple types of color processing conditions, the program comprising:

a developing step of developing input image data into bit map image data, said developing step including selectively developing in either a first mode or a second mode,

wherein, in the first mode, the input image data is developed a plurality of times equal to the number of color image output apparatus, ~~by~~ using a set of type(s) of color processing condition(s) from a device profile, including one or more type(s) as to which the color image output apparatus differ from each other, wherein each

time the set of color processing condition(s) used corresponds ~~corresponding~~ to a respective ~~each of the plurality of~~ color image output apparatus and the result obtained is output to that color image output apparatus, and

wherein, in the second mode, the input image data is developed by once, using an optional set of type(s) of color processing condition(s) from a device profile, including one or more type(s) as to which the color image output apparatus differ from each other, wherein the set of color processing condition(s) used corresponds to a combination of the plurality of color image output apparatus[[,]] and ~~in both modes a~~ the result obtained ~~in said developing step~~ is output to the plurality of color image output apparatus.

8. (withdrawn): An image processing method for processing an input job in parallel by a plurality of color-image output apparatus, comprising:

a developing step of developing input image data into bit map image data for a first color-image output apparatus; and

a converting step of converting the bit map image data for the first color-image output apparatus into bit map image data for a second color-image output apparatus,

wherein the bit map image data for the first color-image output apparatus developed in said developing step is transferred to the first color-image output apparatus, and wherein the bit map image data for the second color-image output apparatus converted in said converting step is transferred to the second color-image output apparatus.

9. (withdrawn): An image processing method according to claim 8, wherein the plurality of color-image output apparatus are of the same type, and said developing step includes performing a color matching process by using profiles corresponding to the type of the plurality of color-image output apparatus, and wherein said converting step includes performing a conversion matching gradation characteristics of the first and second color-image output apparatus.

10. (withdrawn): An image processing method according to claim 9, wherein the gradation characteristics of the first color-image output apparatus are calibrated by a calibration process.

11. (withdrawn): An image processing method according to claim 8, wherein said developing step includes performing a color adjustment process corresponding to the first color-image output apparatus and a gradation correction process matching the first color-image output apparatus.

12. (withdrawn): An image processing apparatus for processing an input job in parallel by a plurality of color-image output apparatus, comprising:

developing means for developing input image data into bit map image data for a first color-image output apparatus; and

converting means for converting the bit map image data for the first color-image output apparatus into bit map image data for a second color-image output apparatus,

wherein the bit map image data for the first color-image output apparatus developed by said developing means is transferred to the first color-image output apparatus, and wherein the bit map image data for the second color-image output apparatus converted by said converting means step is transferred to the second color-image output apparatus.

13. (withdrawn): A storage medium storing a program for realizing an image processing method for processing an input job in parallel by a plurality of color image output apparatus, the program comprising:

a developing step of developing input image data into bit map image data for a first color-image output apparatus; and

a converting step of converting the bit map image data for the first color-image output apparatus into bit map image data for a second color-image output apparatus,

wherein the bit map image data for the first color-image output apparatus developed by said developing function is transferred to the first color-image output apparatus, and wherein the bit map image data for the second color-image output apparatus converted in said converting step is transferred to the second color-image output apparatus.

14. (withdrawn): An image processing method for processing an input job in parallel by a plurality of color image output apparatus, comprising:

a developing step of developing input image data into bit map image data,

wherein said developing step includes processing selected from the group consisting of:

processing A, in which said developing includes first and second modes, wherein, in the first mode the input image data is developed a number of times equal to the number of color image output apparatus, using a color processing condition corresponding to each of the plurality of color image output apparatus, and wherein, in the second mode, the input image data is developed once using an optional color processing condition and a result obtained in said developing step is output to the plurality of color image output apparatus, and

processing B, which includes developing input image data into bit map image data for a first color-image output apparatus and converting the bit map image data for the first color-image output apparatus into bit map image data for a second color-image output apparatus, wherein the bit map image data for the first color-image output apparatus is transferred to the first color-image output apparatus and wherein the bit map image data for the second color-image output apparatus is transferred to the second color-image output apparatus.